

Elements of a Reading Workshop

to increase Stamina, Fluency, & Joy

Time

Students need time to read in class in order to create a habit of reading and set the stage for homework reading, and teachers need reading time to confer individually with students about their choices, stamina, engagement, and goals. Students need time to discuss choices with classmates, time to analyze their progress, and time to practice fluency & comprehension strategies under the direction of the teacher.

Choice

Students need to make choices in reading that reflect their interests because interest drives engagement. Teachers should encourage wide reading in all genres as well as students who pursue an author or genre study. Allow students to reread favorite books and to abandon a book that no longer interests them.

Response

Teacher conferences are the primary tool for assessing progress, encouraging goal-setting and reflection, and analyzing student needs. Students will reflect on reading in writing (themed notebooks & writers' notebooks), facilitate discussions in small groups, join blogs or reading sites for discussions outside of class, and respond regularly to other readers in the room.

Vision

Daily book talks present a wide range of voices, styles of text, categories of interest, etc. and are essential for helping students develop their own 'to read next' lists. We must commit to helping students define themselves as readers who like...

Expectations

All readers will develop the stamina to read longer and with greater fluency with daily practice. A reading rate is calculated regularly and students are expected to meet a weekly goal based on the challenge of the current selected text. All readers will update book lists, set goals, and read regularly each week at home.

Challenge

Monitor reading lists & teach all students to analyze choices and increase challenge; set goals based on progress towards college expectations: 200-600 pages/week; create reading ladders that help students find books of increasing difficulty within a genre; book talk a wide variety of choices including classics and world literature.

Modeling

Use short mentor texts to increase complexity & demands on readers; model storyboarding to help students understand the craft construction in short stories & novels; model your own choices as a reader: post your reading list, share books you love; show thinking & annotations in a mentor text and model "fix-it" strategies.

down to write a book, just start to scribble.”

Received
of

prepared
 finished side.
 p. 122

[illegible]

100

Kennett Middle School
Suggested Summer Reading List

Science Fiction

Abner & Me, Babe & Me, Honus & Me, Jackie & Me, etc. by Dan Gutman
The Clones by Gloria Skurzynski
Downsiders by Neal Shusterman
Found by Margaret Peterson Haddix
Gathering Blue by Lois Lowry
The Last Book in the Universe by Rodman Philbrick
Phoenix Rising by Karen Hesse
The Reminder by Rune Michaels
The Supernaturalist by Eoin Colfer
Uglies by Scott Westerfeld

Fantasy Fiction

Artemis Fowl by Eoin Colfer
Beastly by Alex Finn
Beyond the Deep Woods by Paul Stewart
Eragon, Eldest, and Brisingr by Christopher Paolini
Fairest by Gail Carson Levine
The Lightning Thief by Rick Riordan
Peter and the Starcatchers by Dave Barry
Raven's Gate by Anthony Horowitz
The Ruins of Gorlan by John Flanagan
The Warrior Heir by Cinda Williams Chima

Historical Fiction

Chains by Laurie Halse Anderson
Code Talker by Joseph Bruchac
Copper Sun by Sharon Draper
Elijah of Buxton by Christopher Paul Curtis
Four Steps to Death by John Wilson
Hattie Big Sky by Kirby Larson
Hitler's Canary by Sandi Toksvig
My Brother Sam is Dead by James Lincoln Collier
My Name is Sally Little Song by Brenda Woods
Numbering All the Bones by Ann Rinaldi

Realistic Fiction

Drums, Girls, and Dangerous Pie by Jordan Sonnenblick
Freak by Marcella Pixley
Heat and Travel Team by Mike Lupica
How to Steal a Dog by Barbara O'Connor

*****List is continued on the back side of this sheet.

Itch by Michelle D. Kwasney
Jeremy Fink and the Meaning of Life by Wendy Mass
The Schwa Was Here by Neal Shusterman
Smiles to Go by Jerry Spinelli
The Wednesday Wars by Gary D. Schmidt
Wild Girls by Pat Murphy

Mystery Fiction

The Case of the Left-Handed Lady by Nancy Springer
Cover Up and *Last Shot* by John Feinstein
Double Identity and *Running Out of Time* by Margaret Peterson Haddix
The Face on the Milk Carton by Carolyn B. Cooney
Gallows Hill by Lois Duncan
The Abduction by Gordon Korman
The Mailbox by Audrey Shafer
The Name of the Game Was Murder by Joan Lowery Nixon
Sammy Keyes and the Art of Deception by Wendelin Van Draanen
The Thief Lord by Cornelia Funke

Multicultural Fiction

Bearstone by Will Hobbs
Becoming Naomi Leon and *Esperanza Rising* by Cynthia Rylant
Bound by Donna Jo Napoli
Dream Soul by Lawrence Yep
Gold Dust by Chris Lynch
Grape Thief by Kristine L. Franklin
Homeless Bird by Gloria Whelan
Iqbal by Francesco D'Adamo
The King of Mulberry Street by Donna Jo Napoli
Under the Persimmon Tree by Suzanne Fisher Staples

Adventure Fiction

The Angel Experiment by James Patterson
Castaways by Iain Lawrence
Hatchet by Gary Paulsen
My Side of the Mountain by Jean Craighead George
Peak by Roland Smith
Shipwreck, *Chasing the Falconers*, and *The Contest* by Gordon Korman
Stormbreaker by Anthony Horowitz
Tomorrow When the War Began by John Marsden
Wild Man Island by Will Hobbs
Wolf Brother by Michelle Paver

Book Talks for High School 2009-2010

Penny Kittle

1. *Sold* by Patricia McCormick, prose-poetry fiction, child sexual slavery
2. *Looking for Alaska* by John Green, fiction, prep school & friends & death
3. *A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier* by Ishmael Beah, child soldier
4. *Boot Camp* by Todd Strasser, fiction, child abducted & sent to discipline camp
5. *The Hunger Games* by Suzanne Collins, fiction, reality show in the future
6. *The Five People You Meet in Heaven* by Mitch Albom, fiction, life after
7. *The Invention of Hugo Cabret* by Brian Selznick, fiction, art + story
8. *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* by Sherman Alexie, memoir
9. *Nineteen Minutes* by Jodi Picoult, fiction, school shooting & back story
10. *Couldn't Keep it To Myself* by Wally Lamb, short stories written by prisoners
11. *Go Ask Alice* by Anonymous, diary of honors student to drug addict
12. *They Poured Fire On Us From the Sky: Stories from the Lost Boys of Sudan*
13. *The First Part Last* by Angela Johnson, fiction, teen boy raises child alone
14. *The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak, fiction, holocaust, German life, Death
15. *21: Bringing Down the House: the Inside Story of Six M.I.T. Students Who Took Vegas*
16. *North of Beautiful* by Justina Headley, fiction, living with a port wine stain
17. *A Thousand Splendid Suns* by Khaled Hosseini, fiction, girls' life in Afghanistan
18. *The Art of Racing in the Rain* by Garth Stein, fiction, told by the dog, a mystery
19. *Prep* by Curtis Sittenfeld, fiction, life inside an American prep school
20. *13 Reasons Why* by Jay Asher, suicide leaves behind reasons why she did it
21. *Guitar Girl* by Sara Manning, fiction, rock star in Britain as a teenager
22. *Vernon God Little* by DBC Pierre, fiction, accused of school shooting, on the run
23. *The Fellowship of the Ring* by J.R.R. Tolkien, fiction, hobbits fight evil
24. *Maus: A Survivor's Tale: My Father Bleeds History* by Art Spiegelman, graphic novel
25. *If I Stay* by Gayle Forman, fiction, in a coma deciding to live or die
26. *Mountains Beyond Mountains* by Tracy Kidder, non-fiction, Paul Farmer/Haiti
27. *Upstate* by Kalisha Buckhanon, fiction, letters between prison & girlfriend back home
28. *Catalyst* by Laurie H. Anderson, senior meeting college deadlines
29. *After the Wreck, I picked myself up spread my wings and flew away*, J.C. Oates
30. *Copper Sun* by Sharon Draper, historical fiction, slave & indentured servant
31. *The Rose that Grows from Concrete* by Tupac Shakur, diaries & poetry
32. *Deadline* by Chris Crutcher, fiction, senior dying & telling no one
33. *The Burn Journals* by Brent Runyan, memoir, suicide attempt's aftermath
34. *The Glass Castle* by Jeannette Walls, memoir, poverty & survival
35. *The Freedom Writers Diary* by Erin Gruwell, letters from L.A. students
36. *Reading Lolita in Tehran* by Azar Nafisi, memoir, teaching in Iran
37. *Running with Scissors* by Anthony Burroughs, memoir, insanity & survival
38. *Eats, Shoots & Leaves* by Lynne Truss, entertaining grammar & usage guide
39. *The Worst Hard Time* by Timothy Egan, non-fiction, survive the Dust Bowl
40. *American Born Chinese* by Gene Luen Yang, graphic novel, fiction
41. *The Attack* by Yasmina Khadra, fiction, inside a suicide bomber's life
42. *Can't Buy Me Love: The Beatles, Britain, and America* by Jonathan Gould
43. *Crank* by Ellen Hopkins, prose-poetry fiction, addiction and devastation
44. *The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini, fiction, Afghanistan boyhood & escape
45. *Water for Elephants* by Sara Gruen, fiction, life in the circus
46. *True Stories: Guides to Writing from your Life* by Rebecca Rule & Sue Wheeler
47. *Three Cups of Tea* by Greg Morgenstern, memoir, building schools in Pakistan

48. *The Places Inbetween* by Rory Steward, memoir, walk through Afghanistan
49. *Black Girl/White Girl* by Joyce Carol Oates, fiction, college roommates disaster
50. *Rules* by Cynthia Lord, fiction, a sister living with brother's autism
51. *Twisted* by Laure H. Anderson, fiction, boy in love and in trouble with school
52. *Shark Girl* by Kelly Bingham, prose-poetry fiction, arm bitten off by shark
53. *Lies Across America: what our historic sites get wrong* by James Loewen
54. *The Double Bind* by Chris Bohjalian, fiction, Gatsby characters modern mystery
55. *The Rule of the Bone* by Russell Banks, fiction, young drug dealer on the run
56. *Educating Esme: Diary of a Teacher's First Year* by Esme Codell, memoir
57. *It's Not About the Bike* by Lance Armstrong, autobiography of cancer
58. *The Space Between* by Don Aker, boy goes to Mexico to lose his virginity
59. *The Sledding Hill* by Chris Crutcher, fiction, boy fights book banning & dad's death
60. *A Lesson Before Dying* by Ernest Gaines, condemned to die, what he's learned
61. *The Road* by Cormac McCarthy, the end of the world survival of father & son
62. *The Astonishing Life of Octavian Nothing, Vol. I* by Mt. T. Anderson, sci-fi
63. *Into Thin Air* by Jon Krakauer, memoir, death on Mt. Everest
64. *Cold Mountain* by Charles Frazier, historical fiction, Civil War life
65. *Without a Map* by Meredith Hall, memoir, pregnant at 16, adoption, meeting up later
66. *All I Did Was Ask* by Terry Gross, interviews with famous folks, short stories
67. *On the Road* by Jack Kerouac, fiction, partying across the country & back
68. *Angela's Ashes* by Frank McCourt, memoir, growing up poor in Ireland
69. *Before I Die* by Jenny Downham, fiction, a teenager's bucket list
70. *The Cider House Rules* by John Irving, fiction, abortion & orphans & NE life
71. *Snow Falling on Cedars* by David Guterson, fiction, life for Japanese in WWII
72. *The Joy Luck Club* by Amy Tan, fiction, life in America for immigrants
73. *Street Pharm* by Allison van Diepen, fiction, drug dealer on the streets
74. *My Sister's Keeper* by Jodi Picoult, fiction, child used for bone marrow for sister
75. *Push: a Novel* by Sapphire, fiction, sexual abuse, poverty, ignorance
76. *Q & A: Slumdog Millionaire* by Vikas Swarup, fiction, life in India for poor
77. *The Stand* by Stephen King, fiction, good vs. evil at the end of the world
78. *Drums, Girls, and Dangerous Pie*, fiction, little brother with leukemia
79. *Keeping You a Secret* by Juliann Peters, fiction, lesbian relationship
80. *Fight Club* by Chuck Palahniuk, fiction, psychological thriller
81. *The Poisonwood Bible* by Barbara Kingsolver, fiction, life in Africa for missionaries
82. *The Red Tent* by Anita Diamant, fiction set in Biblical times
83. *Women in the Material World* by Faith D'Aluisio & Peter Menzel, non-fiction
84. *Paper Towns* by John Green, fiction, girl disappears, friends try to find her
85. *Forever Changes* by Brendan Halpin, fiction, CF girl dying as a senior in HS
86. *Post Secret: Extraordinary Confessions from Ordinary Lives* by Frank Warren
87. *Ways to Live Forever* by Sally Nichols, fiction, 11-year-old dying
88. *The Hungry Planet: what the world eats* by Peter Menzel, non-fiction + photos
89. *How to Breathe Underwater* by Julie Orringer, short fiction stories
90. *50 50* by Dean Karnazes, memoir, marathon runner
91. *Skim* by Mariko Tamaki, graphic novel, fiction, goth at private girls' school
92. *Willow* by Julia Hoben, fiction, accident, orphan, cutting and depression
93. *A Wreath for Emmett Hill* by Marilyn Nelson, epic sonnet on lynching of young boy
94. *The Last True Story I'll Ever Tell* by John Crawford, memoir, Iraq War soldier
95. *Outliers* by Malcolm Gladwell, non-fiction, how successful people make it

Getting Guys to Read (and in the Flow)

~Kaehny, Kittle & Mahan, NCTE 2009

-a small selection of titles to hook reluctant male readers – student recommendations-

Gritty City Life

Brothers in Arms (Bluford High) – Anne Schraff*
Brothers Torres – Coert Voorhees
Crank - Ellen Hopkins*
Dopesick – Walter Dean Myers
Homeboyz - Alan Lawrence Sitomer*
Kerosene – Chris Wooding
Paranoid Park – Blake Nelson
Pure Sunshine – Brian James
Response - Paul Volponi
Ten Mile River - Paul Griffin
Tweak – Nic Sheff
Tweaked - Katherine Holubitsky

Gotta' Think a Little (action/suspense)

Freeze Frame – Heidi Ayarbe
Graveyard Book – Neil Gaiman
Maximum Ride - James Patterson*
Point Blank – Anthony Horowitz
Rat Life – Ted Arnold
Reality Check – Peter Abrahams
Runner - Carl Deuker

I'm a Smartass (smart/witty)

Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian – Sherman Alexie
Abundance of Katherines – John Green
Be More Chill - Ned Vizzini
Deadline - Chris Crutcher
Fat Kid Rules the World - K.L. Going
I Am a Genius...Class President - Josh Lieb
I Love You, Beth Cooper - Larry Doyle
King Dork - Frank Portman
Slam – Nick Hornby
Someday This Pain Will be Useful to You – Peter Cameron
Spanking Shakespeare - Jake Wizner

Gangs, Crime, and Hard Time

A Place to Stand - Jimmy Santiago Baca
Always Running - Luis Rodriguez
Blue Rage, Black Redemption – Stanley Tookie Williams
Chameleon – Charles R. Smith Jr.
Cheating Life, Stealing Death - Eddie Guerrero
Do or Die – Leon Bing
If I Grow Up – Todd Strasser
Monster – Walter Dean Myers
Monster: Autobio of LA Gang Member – Sanyika Shakur
My Bloody Life...Latin King – Reymundo Sanchez
Prep – Jake Coburn
Snitch/Street Pharm – Allison van Diepen

Headcases – Bitter and Out of Whack

Afterlife – Gary Soto
Breathing Underwater – Alex Flinn
Boy Toy - Barry Lyga
Carter Finally Gets It – Brent Crawford
Episodes – My Life as I See It – Blaze Ginsberg
Head Case – Sarah Aronson
Inside Out – Terry Trueman
Right Behind You – Gail Giles
Gospel According to Larry – Janet Tashjian
Stoner and Spaz – Ron Koertge
Thirsty – MT Anderson
Twisted – Laurie Halse Anderson

Life Sometimes Just Sucks

Bottled Up – Jaye Murray
First Part Last – Angela Johnson
Lockdown – Diane Tullson
Perks of Being a Wallflower - Steven Chbosky
Shattered Glass – Gail Giles
Sucker Punch – David Hernandez
Tyrell - Coe Booth

Man vs. Wild (survival/adventure)

Alabama Moon - Watt Key
Between a Rock and a Hard Place – Aron Ralston
Enrique's Journey – Sonia Nazario
Into the Wild/Into Thin Air – Jon Krakauer
La Linea – Ann Jaramillo
Touching Spirit Bear – Ben Mikaelson

Picture This (graphic novels)

American Born Chinese - Gene Luen Yang
Bleach – Tite Kubo*
Dramacon – Svetlana Chmakova*
Into the Volcano – Don Wood
Naruto – Masashi Kishimoto*

Sweaty Jocks (sports books)

Ball Don't Lie/Mexican Whiteboy - Matt De La Pena
Black and White/Rucker Park Set Up – Paul Volponi
Comfort - Carolee Dean
Crackback - John Coy
Drift – Manuel Luis Rodriguez
Drift X – Todd Strasser/Craig Phillips*
Goal! The Dream Begins – Becker et. al*
Players - Joyce Sweeney
Pop - Gordan Korman
Racing Fear – Jacqueline Guest
Raiders Night - Robert Lipsyte
Why I Fight – J. Adam Oaks

Swords, Sorcerers, and Spaceships

Cirque du Freak/Demonata - Darren Shan*
Ender's Game - Orson Scott Card*
Eragon/Inheritance – Christopher Paolini *
Halo series – various authors*
House of the Scorpion – Nancy Farmer
Hunger Games – Suzanne Collins*
Lord of the Rings - JRR Tolkien*
Ranger's Apprentice - John Flanagan*
Redwall – Brian Jacques*

War

Fallen Angels/Sunrise Over Fallujah – Walter Dean Myers
Purple Heart – Patricia McCormick
Daniel's Story – Carol Matas
Search and Destroy – Dean Hughes

*part of a series

GUY TALK – Dear Teachers: ***Thoughts about guys and reading –*** ***quotes from urban and suburban HS***

A book has to make a movie in my head.

Guys like good events in a book, something that will lead one good event to another.

Reading isn't fun if it is forced upon you.

Guys would rather stare at a rock than read.

Reading is not worth my time.

I hate anything teachers make me read.

If it doesn't have cussing and action, I don't want to read it.

Books tend to not keep our focus and they portray weird images and symbols we just don't care about.

In my opinion most books corrupt the mind into false realities.

Books are only good if you put pictures in them.

If you give us boring books we will turn to internet or television for entertainment. I'm lucky my dad is a sci fi geek.

I hate it when teachers make us read books that are like 3000 years old.

I'll read it if another guy says it's a good book, and I'll read it if a cute girl says it's good – but if a teacher recommends it for the whole class to read, I get suspicious.

It's true...

47% guys surveyed like to read
52% have read more than 10 books
100% say CHOICE MATTERS

Getting Girls to Read (and in the Flow)

~Hartman & Kittle, IRA 2010

a small selection of titles to hook reluctant female readers

I Think I'm in Love

Confessions of a Not It Girl—Melissa Kantor
Jason/Kyra—Dana Davidson
North of Beautiful—Justina Chen Headly
Perfect Chemistry—Simone Elkeles
The Nature of Jade—Deb Caletti
Vegan Virgin Valentine—Carolyn Mackler

Are Guys Worth It?

Boys, Girls & Other Hazardous Materials—Rosalind Wiseman
Crushed—Tom and Laura McNeal
heart on my sleeve—Ellen Wittlinger
Honey, Baby, Sweetheart—Deb Caletti
jumping off swings—Jo Knowles
The Secret Life of Prince Charming—Deb Caletti
Zig Zag—Ellen Wittlinger

I'm Gay and Okay

Far From Xanadu—Julie Ann Peters
Girl 2 Girl—Julie Ann Peters
Keeping You a Secret—Julie Ann Peters
Love and Lies—Ellen Wittlinger
Luna—Julie Ann Peters
Rage—Julie Ann Peters

How Did I Get Into This Mess?

Close to a Killer—Marsha Qualey
Fake ID—Walter Sorrells
Finding Zola—Marianne Mitchell
Heist Society—Alley Carter
Jumped—Rita Williams-Garcia
Spy Goddess: Live and Let Shop—Michael P. Spradlin
What I Saw and How I Lied—Judy Blundell

Strong Girls

Burning Up—Caroline Cooney
Catalyst—Laurie Halse Anderson
Define Normal—Julie Ann Peters
Finding Miracles—Julia Alvarez
Going, going—Naomi Shihab Nye
Hunger Games—Suzanne Collins
Lives of our own—Lori Hewett
Margaux with an X—Ron Koertge
Prom—Laurie Halse Anderson
Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants—Ann Brashares
The Killing Sea—Richard Lewis
The Legend of Buddy Bush—Sheila Moses
Three Little Words—Ashley Rhoades-Courter

What Was I Thinking?

Bad—Jean Ferris
boy proof—Cecil Castellucci
Can't Get There From Here—Todd Strasser
Cut—Patricia McCormick
Glass—Ellen Hopkins
Harmless—Dana Reinhardt
Memoir of a Teenage Amnesiac—Gabrielle Zevin
Not Like You—Deborah Davis
Pure—Terra Elan McVoy
Sandpiper—Ellen Wittlinger
Story of a Girl—Sara Zarr
The White Horse—Cynthia Grant

Do I Really Belong Here?

Call me Maria—Judith Ortiz Cofer
Estrella's Quinceanera—Malin Alegria
Finding Miracles—Julia Alvarez
Nothing Here But Stones—Nancy Oswald
Return to Sender—Julia Alvarez
Sofi Mendoza's Guide to Getting Lost in Mexico—Malin Alegria
Swimming to America—Alice Mead
The Secret Story of Sonia Rodriguez—Alan Sitomer

Go to the Colorado Writing Project website (www.coloradowritingproject.org) for the past three years of Karen and Sheila's annotated YAL book talking lists.

Families Can Drive You Crazy

Contents Under Pressure—Lara M. Zeises
Cuba 14—Nancy Osa
Fancy White Trash—Marjetta Geerling
Here Today—Ann Martin
If I Have a Wicked Stepmother, Where's My Prince?—Melissa Kantor
Miracle on 49th Street—Mike Lupica
Ostrich Eye—Beth Cooley
Pepperland—Mark Delany
The Serious Kiss—Mary Hogan
Tune In Anytime—Caroline Cooney
Wild Roses—Deb Caletti

It's My Body

Alt Ed—Catherine Atkins
Life in the Fat Lane—Cherie Bennett
Big Fat Manifesto—Susan Vaught
Sister Slam and the Poetic Motormouth Road Trip—Linda High
The Earth, My Butt, and Other Big Round Things—Carolyn Mackler
Unexpected Development—Marlene Perez

Doing the Right Thing Isn't Easy

Bad Girls, Bad Girls—Cynthia Voigt
Brutal—Michael Harmon
Friction—E.R. Frank
Hit the Road—Caroline B. Cooney
Lucas—Kevin Brooks
The Fortunes of Indigo Skye—Deb Caletti

History Matters

Chains—Laurie Halse Anderson
Choke Creek—Lauren Small
Copper Sun—Sharon Draper
Counting on Grace—Elizabeth Winthrop
Fire From the Rock—Sharon Draper
Hattie Big Sky—Kirby Larson
In My Enemy's House—Carol Matas
Monkey Town—Ronald Kidd
Sold—Patricia McCormick
Under the Persimmon Tree—Suzanne Fisher Staples
Weedflower—Cynthia Kadohata

Love in the Land of Fantasy/Sci-Fi

A Kiss in Time—Alex Flinn
Beastly—Alex Flinn
Eternal—Cynthia Leitich Smith
Pay the Piper—Jane Yolen and Adam Stemple
Psyche in a Dress—Francesca Lia Block
Shadowland: The Immortals—Alyson Noel
Shiver—Maggie Stiefvater
Twilight (and the other books in the series)—Stephenie Meyer
This World We Live In—Susan Beth Pfeffer
Wicked Lovely—Melissa Marr

Pyscho Girls

After—Amy Efaw
Black Box—Julie Schumacher
By the Time You Read This, I'll be Dead—Julie Ann Peters
Speak—Laurie Halse Anderson
wintergirls—Laurie Halse Anderson

Life Sometimes Just Sucks

Beneath My Mother's Feet—Amjed Omar
Cold Hands, Warm Heart.—Jill Wolfson
Dirty little secrets—C.J. Omololu
Lush—Natasha Friend
November Blues—Sharon Draper
Pop Princess—Rachel Cohn
Tangled—Carolyn Mackler
The Chosen One—Carol Lynch Williams

Death and Dying

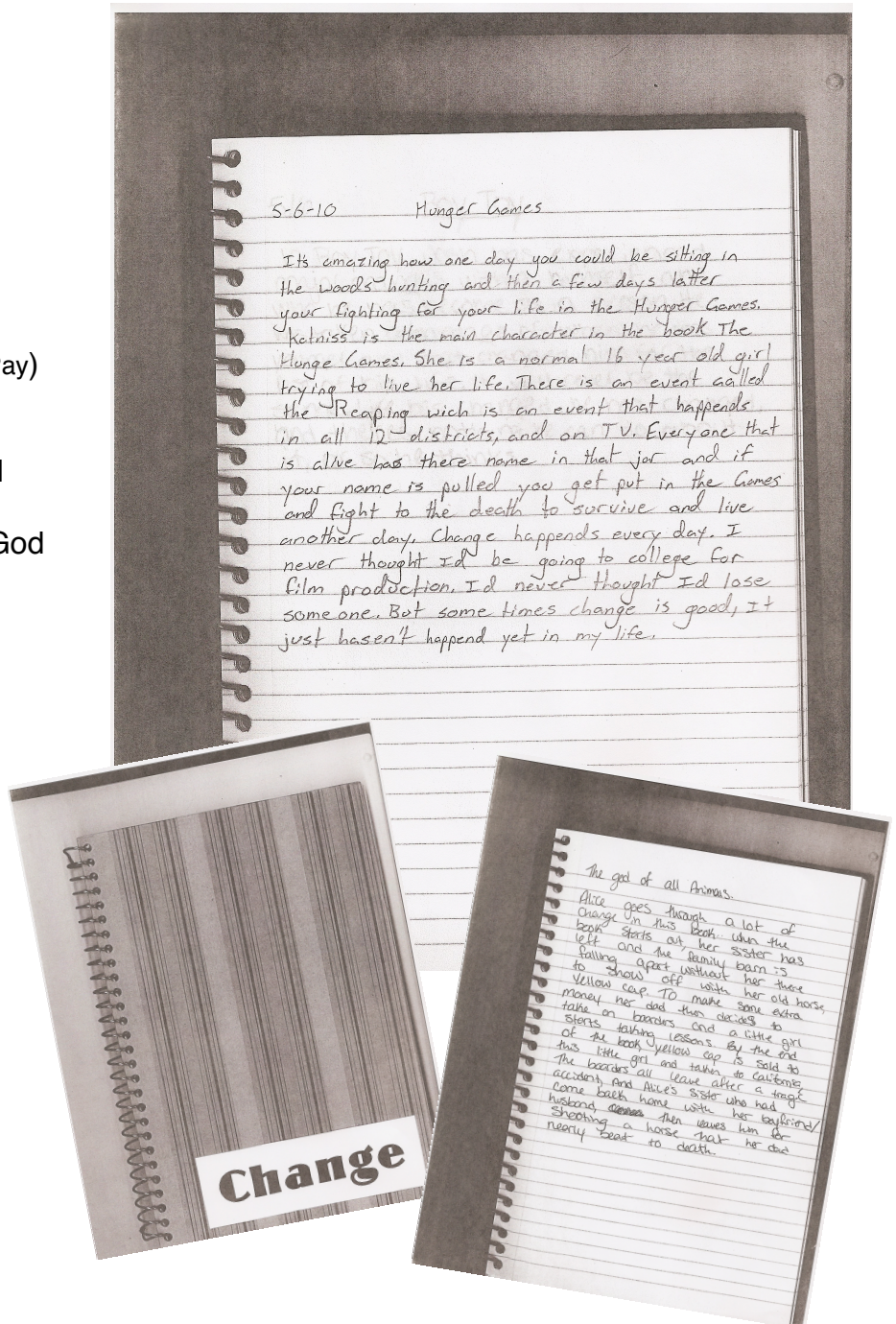
Aimee—Mary Beth Miller
Before I Die—Jenny Downham
Before I Fall—Lauren Oliver
Blind Faith—Ellen Wittlinger
Cures for Heartbreak—Margo Rabb
Dear Zoe—Phillip B eard
Fade Far Away—Frances Lantz
Forever Changes—Brendan Halpin
Hate You—Graham McNamee
If I Stay—Gayle Foreman
Let's Get Lost—Sarrah Manning
The Truth About Forever—Sarah Dressen
Thirteen Reasons Why—Jay Asher
Willow—Julie Hoben
Would You—Marthe Jocelyn
You Know Where to Find Me—Rachel Cohn

Go to the Colorado Writing Project website (www.coloradowritingproject.org) for the past three years of Karen and Sheila's annotated YAL book talking lists.

Possible Topics for Reading Response Notebooks

These come from commonly taught themes in literature

Belief
Forgiveness
Oppression
Discipline
Decisions
Death & Dying
Love
Acceptance
Courage
Change
Empathy
Life Lessons (like Crime Doesn't Pay)
Overcoming Adversity
Man Struggles Against Nature
Man Struggles Against Societal Pressure
Man Struggles to Understand God
Friendship
Sacrifice
The Bonds of Family
Yin & Yang
Suffering
Conflict
Abandonment
Alienation
Ambition
Coming of Age
Freedom
Gender
Justice
Isolation
Cruelty
Fate
Hope
Guilt



Independent Reading Craft Analysis

Writing

Mrs. Kittle

The purpose of this project is to develop your analysis skills through a deep reading of a book you choose to read more than once this semester. Your goal is discovery. You will analyze the craft of a novel. This process will require you to more closely consider the author's craft.

Requirements:

1. You have to love the book. Feel something. Have something to say about it. Love it enough to read it again and spend time thinking deeply about it.
2. Unpack the construction of the book (see Mrs. Kittle's example for *If I Stay*) using a storyboard to highlight moments or turns of plot and your notes on how these moments contribute to the story. *You'll ask me... how detailed?* That depends on how the book works. Spend enough time digging into how the story works so that you can make observations about why the author included scenes or characters or settings in the story. Remember the entire story was constructed with intention. Your job is to guess at those intentions.
3. Ask lots of questions and attempt to answer them. Some you won't be able to answer.
4. Make connections to readers... who wouldn't like it? Who would reread it? Who **MUST** read it?
5. Find out about the author. Find out anything that satisfies your own curiosity, but pay special attention to what you find out about how this author writes.

Final Products:

1. Storyboard analysis.
2. Two-three page explanation of how the novel works. There will be guesses, based on your observations and analysis, and there will be some facts included that you've found in research about the author.

EXTRA... an opportunity to use what you learned in the last unit in this one: A Book Trailer created in imovie or Moviemaker. Sell the book! Be creative. Use voiceovers and music and images to bring it alive. Study other trailers to get a sense for how they work.

the novel turns on this.

Gramps asks, "Do you think she decides?" p.73

Gran: "It doesn't work like that." she snaps.

"I'm a little freaked out right now... if I stay. If I leave. It's up to me."

5:40 p.m.

central conflict p.73

but it has been hinted at... foreshadowing...

where the hell is Adam?

fb
doubt about not belonging
"Fake it till you make it."
asks Mom for help

makes her a sympathetic character - we all get it.

Craft

usually the last line of the scene leads to the content of the flash back.

"Mia, Mia, this is the you I like." p.84

He's here.

7:13 p.m.

"What do you mean? Can't you go?" he booms.

the nurse doesn't mean to be cruel. She's just clueless...

fb
Kim & Mia: group A then Mia tells Kim Kim & Adam: don't click until now

like there are gifts that come from tragedy

text-to-self connection that deepens my reading

follows Kim & Adam, overhears details of accident...

0:12 p.m.

Kim & Adam plot to invade ICU "they're friends now"

fb
F camp
"I might have quit for real if not for Kim."
from solo to symphony

she's developing as a character

rock star visit... (Adam)

Kim & Adam to security. Willow... realizes Teddy...

9:06 p.m.

fb
Teddy's birth. he looked in her eyes... he held

just like with Cam - I know this moment.

my gaze. there were certain things that only I could do for him.

If one of us should have been left behind, if one of us should be given the opportunity for more life, it should be him.

I run away. (pediatrics)

It is unfair. p.134

10:40 p.m.

I want to go away. I don't want to be here.

Crisis. perinatal

Here's a huge personal connection for me.

what would it be like to stay?

fb
funerals... family discusses for their own funerals.

creepy & real @ the same time - smart.

ICU... she's worse... visitors look worse

2:48 p.m.

Gramps says, "It's okay," he tell me, "If you want to go." "It's okay if you leave us. It's okay if you have to stop fighting." p.152

fb
Dad's transformation - the cost + what we gain for our kids

Dad's lyrics that she finds.

"It wasn't hard to do. I'd played that part of my life out. It was time."

long time again - surgery

I see this differently on a second read - minus the sobbing. All I could see was what I felt & remembered, but now I see how "played that part of my life out" is about Mia as well. If she chooses to stay, she'll have to realize that every treasured moment - all of these flashbacks - will now be part of a life she's played out. Knowing this reminds me of the cost of her choice - it reinforces the tension of this choice. She's careful not to make this a choice between joining her family or not because they are completely gone - but to choose to stay means living with this loss in an unknown future.

Quarter Two Reading Ladder

Books Read: (most to least difficult)

1. *The Places In Between*, Rory Stewart
2. *The Last True Story I'll Ever Tell*, John Crawford
3. *Lone Survivor*, Marcus Luttrell
4. *Hole In My Life*, Jack Gantos
5. *Crazy For The Storm*, Norman Ollestead
6. *Fire*, Kristin Cashore
7. *Incarceron*, Cathrine Fisher
8. *The Mockingjay*, Suzanne Collins
9. *Maze Runner*, James Dashner
10. *Ranger's Apprentice 7*, John Flanagan
11. *Ranger's Apprentice 8*, John Flanagan
12. *Rangers Apprentice 9*, John Flanagan

The Places In Between by Rory Stewart:

Of all the books I have read this year, *The Places In Between* has been the most difficult, at least based on the language and content. Fortunately I enjoyed reading it and found the story he told intriguing. Unlike *Water For Elephants*, whose plot really didn't interest me very much, *The Places In Between* was able to keep me reading because I like the idea he had and wanted to learn more about the culture. I was distraught when his dog died and indeed I feared for his own life at times, though clearly he had to survive. While this book was one of my slowest reads, it was also one of my most rewarding.

Maze Runner by James Dashner

Maze Runner and *Incarceron* are based on similar concepts but are very different books. Both books are set in a gigantic prison like place who's occupants have no idea how they got there, or even if there is anything outside. Of the two books I liked *Maze Runner* more. This is because the way *Incarceron* was written was confusing, especially in the beginning. *Maze Runner* does a much better job of introducing the reader into the world of the book, instead of just throwing you into the middle. I think this is because in *Maze Runner* you start with Thomas when he has no idea as to what is happening and so you learn with him, whereas in *Incarceron* the main character already knows about his surroundings. Both of these books were enjoyable but *Maze Runner* was the one that made me want to keep reading.

Fire by Kristin Cashore

At first I was very non-committal about *Fire*. It was slow to start and I had heard nothing about it before picking it up. Once I got into it I was pleasantly surprised. The story was deep and engaging and the characters easy to relate to. Even though *Fire* is a fantasy book the characters were extremely well developed and not at all one-sided. They each had their own faults and their actions were often questionable, even when their intent was good. This made me

feel for the characters more than in books like *Maze Runner* where you never really question if Thomas is doing what is right. This book also did something I felt *The Mockingjay* struggled with very well. Killing main character(s). I got very frustrated when *The Mockingjay* started killing off important characters without letting the reader mourn for them, but *Fire* managed to do it in a way that didn't seem wasteful.

Goals/reading rate:

My reading rate for quarter two was about 150 pages a week on average. I have always been able to read books quickly if I really get into them but I think this quarter helped me build up stamina while reading books that I'm not loving. I had a lot of difficulty finding a book I wanted to read this quarter so my goal for next quarter is to find books I actually want to read. I think I might begin reading the *Harry Potter* series at some point, because I never did read them and I feel obligated to at least give them a try.

Cruel as It Is, We Somehow Go On

Sometimes, the earth is cruel.

That is ultimately the fundamental lesson here, as children wail, families sleep out of doors, and the dead lie unclaimed in the rubble that once was Port-au-Prince.

Sometimes the rains fall and will not stop. Sometimes the skies turn barren and will not rain. Sometimes the seas rise and smack the shoreline like a fist. Sometimes the wind bullies the land. And sometimes, the land rattles and heaves and splits itself in two.

Sometimes, the earth is cruel.

And always, when it is, we do the same thing. We dig ourselves out. We weep and mourn, we recover and memorialize the dead, we rebuild our homes. And we go on. This is the price of being human. And also, arguably, the noblest expression.

Sometimes, the earth is cruel, and you have no choice but to accept that as part of the bargain called life. And when it is your turn to deal with it, you do.

But what if it's *always* your turn?

Surely some homeless, dust-streaked Haitian can be forgiven for thinking it is always Haiti's turn this morning, two days after the poorest nation in the Western Hemisphere saw its capital city smashed by the strongest earthquake it has ever known, a 7.0-magnitude monster. Surely, the rest of us watching from afar, experiencing tragedy and devastation from the comfort of desk chairs and living room couches, are tempted to believe the same thing.

Bad enough, Haiti is wretchedly poor. Bad enough it has a history of political instability and colonialism, of being ignored by the major powers when it is not being exploited by them. Bad enough, all that, yet at the end of the day, those are disasters authored by human hands, by human greed, human corruption, human economic predation.

Sometimes, though, you have to wonder if the planet itself is not conspiring against this humble little nation.

After 1994, when Tropical Storm Gordon killed several hundred people, after 1998, when Hurricane Georges swept away over 500 lives, after 2004, when the rains of Tropical Storm Jeanne claimed over 2,000 souls, after 2005, when Hurricane Dennis took 25 lives in July and Tropical Storm Alpha snatched 17 in October, followed by Hurricane Wilma which stole 11 more, after the double whammy of Hurricanes Fay and Gustav in 2008 killed over 130 people and destroyed over 3,100 homes, after all that, comes this latest insult -- and a death toll officials cannot begin to even imagine. Perhaps as many as *100,000*, they were saying on Wednesday.

Sometimes, the earth is cruel. To crawl the planet's skin, scanning for tornadoes in Oklahoma, charting storm tracks in Florida, running from wildfires in California, is to understand this in a primal, personal way. It is to breathe a prayer that begins, ``There, but for the grace of God . . . " It is to write relief checks, donate blood, volunteer material and time and to fear, even in the doing, that these gestures are small against the need, inconsequential against the ache of a people whose turn seems never to end.

But what else are you going to do? As the playwright put it, your arms too short to box with God. Even less have we the ability to answer the question that burns the moment: Why are the most vulnerable repeatedly assessed the highest price?

We are hamstrung by our own limitations, so we can only do what we always do, only send prayers and help. And watch, staggered by the courage it takes, as Haitians do what human beings always do, the thing at which they have become so terribly practiced.

Dig out. Weep and mourn. Memorialize the dead. Rebuild. Go on. And show the world once again a stubborn insistence on living, despite all the cruelties of the earth.

By LEONARD PITTS JR. lpitts@MiamiHerald.com

Beethoven

Shane Koyczan

Listen.

His father made a habit out of hitting him.

See, some men drink, some men yell, some men hit their children.

This man did it all because I guess all men want their boys to be geniuses.

Beethoven.

Little boy living in a house where a name meant nothing.

Living in a house where mercy had to be earned through each perfect note tumbling
up through the roof to tickle the toes of angels who's harps couldn't hold

half the passion that was held in the hands of a young boy who was hard of hearing.

Beethoven.

Who heard his father's anthem every time he put finger to ivory

it was not good enough.

So he played slowly.

Not good enough.

So he played softly.

Not good enough.

So he played strongly.

Not good enough.

And when he could play no more and his fingers cramped up like the gnarled roots
of tree trunks

it was NOT GOOD ENOUGH.

Beethoven.

A musician without his most precious tool: his eardrums

could no longer pound out rhythms for the symphonies playing in his mind

He couldn't hear the audience's clapping

couldn't hear the people loving him

couldn't hear the women in the front row whispering

Beethoven

As they let the music invade their nervous system like an Armada

marching through firing canon balls detonating every molecule

in their body into explosions of heavenly sensation

Each note leaving track marks over every inch of that body

making them ache for

one

more

hit.

He was an addiction.

And Kings, Queens, it didn't matter

The man got down on his knees for no one,

but amputated the legs of his piano

so he could feel the vibrations through the floor
The man got down on his knees for music.

And when the orchestra played his symphonies it was the echoes
of his father's anthem repeating itself
like a broken record,
a broken record
It was not good enough.
So they played slowly.
Not good enough.
So they played softly.
Not good enough.
So they played strongly
NOT GOOD ENOUGH.

So they tried to mock the man, make fun of the madness
by mimicking the movements, holding their bows
a quarter of an inch above the strings not making a sound.
It was perfect.

You see the deaf have an intimacy with silence.
It's there in their dreams.
And the musicians turn to one another not knowing
what to make of the man trying to calculate the distance
between madness and genius, realizing that Beethoven's musical measurements
could take you the distances reaching past the Towers of Babylon,
turning solar systems into cymbals that crash together,
causing comets to collide, creating crescendos that were so loud
they shook the constellations until the stars began to fall from the sky
and it looked like the entire universe had begun to cry,
Distance must be an illusion.
The man MUST be a genius.
Beethoven.
His thoughts moving at the speed of sound.
Transforming emotion into music.

.....

And for a moment it was like joy was a tangible thing,
like you could touch it.
Like for the first time we could watch love and hate
dance together in a waltz of such precision and beauty
that we finally understood that history wasn't important
To know the man
all we ever had to do was
Listen.